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COSTA RICA

## SPOKESMAN FOR ROBERT VESCO ADDRESSES JOURNALISTS

[Article; San Jose, La Nacion, Spanish, 9 March 1973, p 4]

This is a communication sent by Mr J. Raul Espinoza, the Costa Rican representative of Mr Robert Vesco, to the President of the Journalists Association, Don Rolando Angulo, yesterday.

It reads:

"Although I do not know you personally, I want to send you these lines seeking to make the following understood, because of the high position you hold representing journalists in Costa Rica:

"In error, some communications media in the country have taken certain statements made by Mr Robert Vesco in his national radio and television appearances and in his press conference as a threat to the right of free press information.

"Nothing could be farther from the truth. At no time has Mr Vesco had the intention of violating freedom of the press and for the very reason that this is a country in which all rights are respected and the law is heeded by all, Mr Vesco announced that an appeal would be made to the existing legislation on insult or defamation and slander, in order to prevent the damage which inaccurate and false information is doing to his reputation and his business. I believe that this is consistent with the concept of freedom of the press which we should all support.

"Possibly Mr Vesco made the involuntary error of failing to answer or deal with promptly the reports and comments of all kinds which have been published about his business and his person.

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"With a view to correcting this error and being able to give you and the public in general the information merited, Mr Vesco has entrusted this task to me, such that you can all regard me as speaking on his behalf and at his personal wish. Also as Mr Vesco's representative in certain business activities, in addition to these relations with journalists, I give you my assurance that we respect and will respect not only the basic task of the press, but everything which is a guarantee of the common good in a country of order and legality.

"I hope you will be so good as to communicate this information to your colleagues to correct improper interpretations."

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